

Recently, while checking out of a local grocery store, the cashier an older woman in her very late 40's was chuckling. I had a good rapport with her from previous visits and asked what's up? Only moments before, she had gotten off the phone with her daughter who is a 20^{ish} year-old wife and mother. The conversation went like this, her tearful daughter said, “*Sniiiiffff* Mom why did you not drown me when I was born! I am so sorry for putting you through all those horrible things when I was a child. I did not want to be so *monstrous* to you. I could not help it, I swear – *I AM SOOOO- SORRY*, *Sniff!* *Sniiiiiiiiiiiiiiii!*” The woman allowed her to calm down before asking what was with all the drama. Her daughter suddenly realized that all the grief that *her immature daughter* currently was meting out to her is the same hell she gave to her mom when she was at that age. In other words, her daughter realized that she was an absolute monster to her mother and now faced – like mother, like daughter. She was having ‘mother’s remorse,’ which means: “the realization of a mother that her child is now treating her as she treated her mother when a child.” Like parent like child. I asked, ‘What did you say about that?’ The cashier responded to her daughter, “Well, dear, you just cannot drown babies for growing up. That is not part of mothering.” Now I been a parent and the temptation to strangle one’s offspring is sometimes present. One does not always love their kids and that is a fact. The trick is to not place self in a position to hate them, because as impetuous youth they will test that boundary at least once. Just as every parent knows that kids happen, they also know that with them weird sh*t happens, too! As a parent some of the most frustrating moments when squared off nose-to-nose with a rebellious little mini-me was in realizing that she was behaving exactly as I taught her by example - to a fault! Kids only hear what they are not supposed to hear then repeat our words and mimic our worst actions likewise. Parental admonition of ‘do as I say not as I do’ is moot and they reflect that back to us in myriad, sundry ways. Life allows Guppies to eat their young. If a child gets out of line, ‘GULP.’ Then mother Guppy says, ‘I am still very hungry. Any more of you little twerps want to get lippy? No? Problem solved. Child management has never been tastier. It is good to be a Guppy!’ However, people cannot to do that; it is illegal and immoral to eat one’s children. *SIGH!* Life is sooo unfair – get over it. However, parent or mother’s remorse is nature’s checks and balances of that inequality. So when your frazzled mother pulls out her secret weapon to say, “When you grow up and have children, I hope they *act just like you* and *do to you* what you are doing to me right now...” Beware; mother has cursed you with parental remorse. However, Shakespeare penned, ‘let the cats meow for every dog has his [or her] day.’ Be patient, kids happen and you will get a turn... what goes around comes around always returning abundantly to sender. Get over it – life is unfair...but every parent has his or her day.

